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LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter, dated 13 December 1996, which I received today from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1080 (1996) of 15 November 1996.

I should be grateful if you would bring the text of the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI



Annex

Letter dated 13 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you further to my letter of 14 November 1996 (S/1996/941, annex) in which the Government of Canada undertook to work with other Governments to enable the deployment of a temporary multinational force for humanitarian purposes in eastern Zaire. As you know, this mandate was subsequently established by the Security Council in its resolution 1080 (1996).

Pursuant to the mandate and the force level agreed to by the Steering Group, which was established to give political direction to the multinational force, the Commander of the force, Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril, established the headquarters of the force in Kampala. He conducted extensive discussions throughout the region to determine how the multinational force should fulfil its mandate.

After consulting with our partners in the Steering Group, Canada has now concluded that, with the return to Rwanda of the majority of refugees, the dispersal of the remaining number over large areas of eastern Zaire and the growing access of international humanitarian agencies to the remaining refugees, displaced persons and civilians at risk, the multinational force at the current authorized force level has very little utility.

Canada will therefore withdraw its command and Canadian elements of the multinational force by 31 December 1996. In the intervening period, and as long as the force remains in place, it will continue to provide assistance to humanitarian organizations.

Canada recommends that the Security Council terminate the mandate of the multinational force, effective 31 December 1996.

I should be grateful if, further to Security Council resolution 1080 (1996) and our recent report of 5 December (S/1996/1013, enclosure), you would inform the Council of our decision.

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
